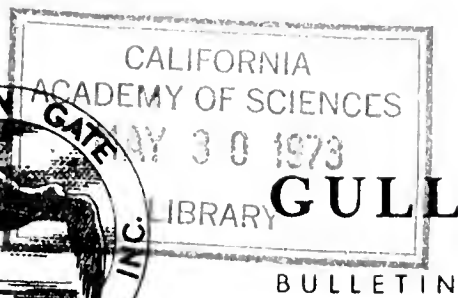


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THE

MONTHLY



Volume 55

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Number 6

CONSERVATION CORNER

THE WIDESPREAD CLEARING of our East Bay eucalyptus forests represents the greatest inroad or transformation of our local scene to occur in decades, excepting, of course, the inevitable spawning of subdivisions, freeways, and bayshore developments, which have devoured other open space. We have been spared the ravages of hill fires and floods on the scale of such Southern California disasters, for example.

What will replace these long-dominant immigrant trees from the Australian region? Shall we replant native trees and shrubs or allow the hills to revert to the grasslands that preceded these alien trees introduced in the nineteenth century? If we choose grasses, we shall have to use controlled fires—perhaps even some sheep and goats—to suppress the coyote brush, Canary Island broom, poison oak, and other shrubs and coarse-growing weeds that would invade the grasslands. Whatever choice or compromises we follow in revegetation efforts, I can see exciting changes in future resident and migrant bird populations. So few were the bird species inhabiting our eucalyptus forests that I'm sure this great clearing will result in a gradual increase in both species and numbers. The prospect for future growth and diversity of wildflowers is staggering!

Finally, we have a brand new wildlife protection bill by Senator Peter Behr (Senate Bill 633) in the legislature. Among other things this bill would outlaw: all poisons including the cyanide guns for predator control; gunning animals from planes or motor vehicles; sawtooth and spiked traps; some rodenticides, and all use of thallium and strychnine. Our GGAS "Hot Line" should take up SB 633 at a later date when citizen action is most urgently needed.

Two other bills in the wildlife protection field have been introduced in the legislature: S.B. 39 (Grunsky) would add to the fish and game code certain endangered-species sections to facilitate enforcement by wardens; A.B. 943 (Thomas) would provide one million dollars from the general fund for better protection of non-game species.

Golden Eagles are still in deep trouble out west—and much closer than the Texas and Wyoming aerial shoots (or are *they really finished?*) Two Santa Rosa men have been indicted in Federal court for shooting

two eagles. Another report elaims 200 Golden Eagles were caught and left to die in predator traps on Nevada ranges—though coyotes and bobeats not eagles, were the intended vietims.

It seems our friendly trusting harbor seals, as well as the more publicized otters, are in trouble right in San Franeiseo Bay. A group of Marin people are trying to stop further building along Strawberry Point, sueh as development of a huge marina, beecause all or most of the North Bay seals use this area as a resting plaee.

All this brings us baek to our long-promised San Franeisco Bay Wildlife Refuge, as harbor seals of South Bay have vital, perhaps ir-replaaeeable, breeding grounds on Mowry Slough. Keep in mind that only comparatively few aeres of this planned 22,000 acre refuge is owned by the U.S. government or committed as refuge. The suit against us—the people—by Westbay developers for those other marshes and tidelands is still pending in court. What about that *statement or evidence of your past or present use* you were asked to send the Refuge Committee or the State Attorney Genreal's office? PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

DON'T FORGET THE JULY PICNIC MEETING

JUST A REMINDER. GGAS will hold a July pienie meeting—of all things—at Sigmund Stern Grove, Sloat and 19th Street, San Franeiseo from **noon** to **6 P.M.** on **Saturday, July 21**. The East Meadow has been reserved for the event. There will be barbeeuing, pienie lunehing, birding, and the sundry other activities that one might look forward to at an Audubon eating out-ing. Bring binoeulars, food, and friends (not neecessarily in that order). For further information, eontaet Ray Higgs (355-6264).

Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3: YOSEMITE. See *May Gull*. Leader: George Peyton (531-5588).

FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3: YOSEMITE. See *May Gull*. Leader: George Peyton (531-5588).

Sunday, June 10: ALUM ROCK PARK in the hills east of San Jose. Approach via U.S. 101, exit at Alum Roek Avenue and drive five miles to the entranee gate. Meet in the pienie area just outside the entranee. Easy walking through oak and syeamore woodlands. We will see orioles, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, and probably Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Canyon Wrens. Meet at **8 A.M.** Leader: Mike Wihler (327-1645).

Saturday and Sunday, June 16 and 17: Camping trip to YUBA PASS in the Sierra. Drive via highway 80 to Truekee, and then turn north on route 89 to Sierraville on highway 49 (distanee-25 miles). Turn west and drive six miles through Sattley and up the Yuba Pass grade. On Saturday, meet at the top of Yuba Pass between **9** and **10 A.M.** On Sunday, meet in Sattley at **7 A.M.** Our eampsite will be Chapman Creek eampground on highway 49 about eight miles past the summit. Other eampgrounds are located at Yuba Pass summit and Lincoln Creek. If you prefer a motel, try Sid's in Sierraville (916 994-8992) or the Gateway Motel or Manzo-Alpine Village Motel in Truekee. Leaders: Beth and Marie Mans, 3713 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette (284-7681).

Saturday, June 23: MT. TAMALPAIS. A fast moving five to seven mile hike through a variety of habitat—marsh, meadow, woods, and lakes. Meet in the parking lot in the center of the town of Fairfax in Marin County. The caravan to the starting point will leave promptly at **7:45 A.M.** Bring lunch in a knapsack. Leader: Pat Triggs (664-8502).

Thursday, June 14: Meet in TILDEN PARK at the Little Farm at **9 A.M.** Choose your own leader.

Wednesday, June 27: Meet at the Academy of Sciences in GOLDEN GATE PARK at **9 A.M.** Choose your own leader.

Wednesday, June 13: ALUM ROCK PARK. (See trip for June 10 for details) Leader: Mike Wihler (327-1645).

Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15: To the California Alpine Club Lodge at ECHO SUMMIT. Lodging for Friday and Saturday and five meals will cost \$10 to \$14 per person depending on accommodations. Space limited. Make reservations between **June 25** and **July 3** with Pat Triggs. Please include the following information: Private room or dormitory? Do you wish Friday night dinner? State planned time of arrival and departure. Send \$5.00 deposit and your telephone number. A Sunday boat trip on Echo Lake will cost about \$1.00. To reach the lodge, take highway 50 via Placerville to the Echo Lake sign at the top of the grade, turn left on paved road and drive one mile to the lodge. (Do not make a second left turn to Echo Lake.) Campers may stay at the Firs Public Campground about a half-mile from the lodge. Grayhound bus service is also available to Little Norway, with transportation to the lodge if you notify the leader ahead of time.

We will bird each morning at **6 A.M.** in the vicinity of the lodge. Field trips will start from the lodge each morning at **8:30 A.M.** Saturday: to Brenwood Meadow and Pope Beach; Sunday: boat trip and hike around Echo Lake. Organizer: Pat Triggs, 2038 33rd Avenue., San Francisco 94116 (664-8502). Bird-trip leaders will be announced later.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Red-necked Grebe, 3, May 1, in breeding plumage, Limantour area, Pt. Reyes—WMP.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron returned to San Rafael waterfront April 8—WMP, AM.

Golden Eagle, May 1, Briones Regional Park—Bill Principe.

Broad-winged Hawk, April 22, at mile 12.5 on Mines Rd. south of Livermore—MLR.

Surfbird, about 30 in breeding plumage, April 18-19 (windy days), Oakland Bridge Toll Plaza—VS, VH.

Pectoral Sandpiper, April 28, Bolinas Lagoon—Van Remsen.

Black Tern, 2, April 24, over east marsh, Coyote Hills Park—RL.

Vaux's Swift, 5, April 19, Mines Rd., Livermore—WMP.

Black-chinned Hummingbird, April 11, at feeder in Berkeley—R & TT.
(Observed the purple border on black chin).

Hermit Warbler, April 14, Golden Gate Park—DS.
Western Tanager, 3, May 1, Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley—JH.
Hooded Oriole, male, April 12-16, at feeder in Richmond—GZ, DB; 3 males, 1 female, April 24-28, S.F. Presidio—MLR.
Red Crossbill, pair, April 14, S.F. Presidio—JM, GA; one April 19, S.F. garden—MG; one April 24 and two April 28, S.F. Presidio—MLR.
Harris' Sparrow, April 7, at the Hurlberts' feeder in Pacific Grove—JM, GA.
White-throated Sparrow, April 13, Oakland garden—DO; one singing April 22 in Kensington garden where he spent the winter—IT.
Observers: Garth Alton, Dan Boelter, Aubrey Burns, Mrs. Melvin Grumbach, Roberta Long, Alice Mericourt, Joe Morlan, Dorothy Orr, William M. Pursell, Mary Louise Rosegay, Virginia Sherwood, Dixie Sperling, Roseanne & Tom Thornhill, Inez Troxell, Gary Zamzow. —VI HOMEM, *Observations Chairman*.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

APRIL 27TH IN THE PRESIDIO in San Francisco was moderately cold and windy with intermittant sunshine. We saw three pair of nesting Hooded Orioles and found two of their nests attached to the underside of palm fronds. There was also a Pygmy Nuthatch which cautiously peered out of its nest, a hole in a sawed-off branch of a cypress tree. A new bird for the area was a Lazuli Bunting, and also two Red Crossbills. A Western Tanager was seen, a Downy Woodpecker, Ash-throated and Olive-sided Flycatchers, and a Swainson's Thrush was heard. Total: 44.

The Livermore trip on April 28th produced all the expected birds—excellent views of Lewis' Woodpecker and Western Kingbirds among the sycamore trees. Bullocks Orioles were on the McCoy ranch, and Phainopeplas, at the bridge. Up on the Mines grade were many Lazuli Buntings, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and in the sky, a Golden Eagle. Total: 42.

NEW AUDUBON SANCTUARY ON THE BANKS OF THE PLATTE RIVER FOR MIGRATING WHOOPERS, SANDHILLS, EAGLES, MILLIONS OF WATERFOWL

THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY is making a significant commitment to assist preservation of the banks of Nebraska's Platte River, centuries-old staging area for hundreds of thousands of migrating sandhill cranes as well as other bird species. We've accepted the option to purchase three contiguous parcels of riverfront land along the Platte in central Nebraska for a new Audubon Sanctuary.

The three areas will make a unit extending about two-and-a-quarter miles on one side of the river and one-and-a-quarter on the other side. Purchase is being made possible by a bequest from the late Lillian Annette Rowe of Trenton, New Jersey, for whom the sanctuary will be named. The Society is cooperating with the farmers involved so that they can continue to use the land for their agricultural purposes. Other lands may be included at a later date.

With local chapters in the lead, the Society is advocating federal protection for the most outstanding sections of the Platte to guarantee a permanent sanctuary for the birds to roost and feed on their way northwards to Alaska, Canada, and Siberia. The vital area is being threatened by the Nebraska Mid-State water diversion project which would dry it up for long periods by damming for irrigation purposes. The alleged benefits of the project are being challenged by conservationists and farmers alike. (From *Audubon Leader*, Vol. 14, No. 7.)

OREGON'S WORKABLE BAN ON NON-RETURNABLE BOTTLES

Six month ago Oregon banned sale of non-returnable beer and softdrink containers and the ban has worked out to almost everyone's satisfaction. Distributor's costs have increased somewhat (because of the expense of handling returns) but litter and trash-removal loads have declined (which is to say the cost of getting rid of the containers is now being charged to the product, not to the tax-payer). The law has virtually ended use of cans for beer and soft drinks in Oregon, but consumption remains about the same; the business the canners have lost has gone to the bottlers. Facts, figures and the text of the law are available in *Oregon's Bottle Bill, A Progress Report*; an account of techniques used in getting the bill through is described in *The Bottle Bill Booklet*. Both are for sale for a dollar each, by the Oregon Environmental Council, 2637 S.W. Water Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97201.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of:

A GIFT OF REMEMBRANCE was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch
 Violet Bruening Marian Carlson
 William Gorski Mr. & Mrs. Walter Overacker
 Martha Grace Lane Virginia Mauck
 Bud Simon Mrs. Ira Lynch, Kathryn Scolieri, Jonnie York

In Honor of:

Sophie Ryan Blanche Vrana
 DR. ALBERT BOLES—*Sanctuary and Memorial Fund Chairman*, 854 Longridge Road, Oakland 94610 (415-6267)

GULL EDITORSHIP CHANGES

AS OF THIS ISSUE, my tenure as editor of the *Gull* is finished. I have enjoyed this work and have gained satisfaction from my active association with the Golden Gate Audubon Society. I have resigned my position because my present full-time position on the staff of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* no longer permits me enough time to satisfactorily carry out the duties as editor of the *Gull*. A new editor is even now being selected and will assume this position as of the July-August issue. All materials for submission to the *Gull* for that issue only should be sent to: The Gull, c/o Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2642 Russell Street, Berkeley, California 94705. The deadline for the July-August issue is July 1, 1973. —EDITOR.



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1973

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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BAAC Delegate	Mr. Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley 94708	524-2495

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*.
Monthly meetings—second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership—Local & National \$12 per year,
(individual); \$15 (family); includes *AUDUBON MAGAZINE* and *THE GULL*. Subscriptions to
THE GULL separately \$2 per year. High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.